

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/825,717

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Applicant(s)

STOAKLEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

1. The arguments filed on 16 February 2007 have been received and entered. Claims 1-14 as amended are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 3/05/2007, Mr. Robert Reckers (Reg. No. 54,633) requested an extension of time for 1 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 19-2112 the required fee of \$120 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Reckers (Reg. No. 54,633) on 2/28/2007.

Art Unit: 2173

4. The application has been amended as follows:

5. The claims are amended as follows:

Cancel claim 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches a graphical user interface that organizes, displays and accesses application and system notifications. Each of the independent claims recites the distinct feature of "upon receipt of a user input indicating a desire to view the hidden notification area icons, redisplaying the hidden notification area icons in the notification area and repeating said monitoring and hiding". The closest prior art, Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,211,858 (hereinafter "Moon 1") and Moon U.S. Patent 6,385,662 (hereinafter "Moon 2") teach a method for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notification area icons. In the case of the Moon 1 reference, Moon 1 teaches receiving one or more user inputs associating at least one of a plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors with at least a portion of said notification items (the users can select the notification items, i.e. the meter icons, to be fixed or rotating) (Moon 1: column 7, lines 8-60), wherein at least one of said plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors includes an inactivity hiding behavior that hides the corresponding notification item icon when a preset

Art Unit: 2173

threshold of inactivity with is met (the meter icons are rotated based on time intervals; for example, the icon can be displayed for 5 seconds, and if in that five seconds, there is no change of state, then the icon is rotated out of the display and a new icon is displayed) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60), and wherein at least one of said plurality of user selectable hiding behaviors displays the corresponding notification item icon without regard to the preset threshold of inactivity (users can choose meter icons to be fixed so that they are always displayed and not rotated out on a time interval) (Moon 1: column 7, lines 8-60); monitoring an interval of time associated with an activity of at least a portion of the notification items (the icons are displayed on a time interval; for example, the icon can be displayed for 5 seconds; if it has been determined that it has been five seconds and there is no change of state, then the icon is rotated out of the display and a new icon is displayed) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); for each of at least a portion of the notification items associated with the inactivity hiding behavior, hiding the corresponding notification area icon from view after the preset threshold of inactivity with is met (after the criteria of five seconds and no change of state is met, the icon is hidden, i.e. rotated out of the display) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60); and repeating the monitoring and the hiding (once the icon is rotated out, the newly displayed icon is monitored for the criteria of being displayed for 5 seconds and no change of state, before the new icon is rotated out) (Moon 1: column 6, lines 33-44 and column 7, lines 8-60). In the case of the Moon 2 reference, Moon 2 teaches when the user wishes to respond to an event, a history icon representing hidden events can be selected and a history file displaying the hidden events is accessed (Moon 2: column 5, lines 7-9). However, although the prior art teaches that an event log showing relevant information regarding hidden

Art Unit: 2173

events is displayed upon receipt of a user input, the history file is not the same as the original notification area and it does not redisplay the notification icons; therefore, the prior art does not teach that the hidden event notification icons are redisplayed in the notification area. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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